

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1386
Alfred Foster House
17315 Masemore Road
Parkton, Baltimore County
1875 ca.
Private

The Alfred Foster House was constructed circa 1875 near the Seventh District town of Hereford and is representative of the many frame farmhouses constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century. Founded in the mid-18th century, Hereford became a thriving town during the 19th century. Named by the prominent Merryman family, who had emigrated from Herefordshire in England, the village was located in the Seventh District, which was the largest and most populated region of the county in latter part of the 19th century. The area historically consisted of rolling hills, traversed by major transportation corridors. It was supported by the cultivation of wheat, corn, oats, fruit, dairy, and the breeding of cattle. According to the 1850 J. C. Sidney Map of Baltimore County, Hereford was home to a Baptist church, a tavern, and numerous residences. By 1877, the town had grown to include a post office, an Odd Fellows Lodge, jeweler, dentist, undertaker, butcher, barber, hotel, schoolhouse, a Methodist Church, and a newspaper. In 1881, Hereford had 300 residents and was the center of a wealthy agricultural and grazing region. The community retains its late 19th century character. Alfred Foster maintained ownership of the property through the early 20th century, and the dwelling and outbuildings remain in the Foster family.

This Queen Anne Style dwelling stands two-and-a-half stories high with a two-story ell projecting to the east creating an L-shaped footprint. The cross gable roof has three interior-end brick chimneys with corbeled caps rising from the gable ends. The gable ends of the main block and the center bay each feature fishscale wood shingles. A random rubble stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad with wood German siding. The three-bay-wide façade features a shed roof three-bay wide porch on the first story with chamfered posts and scroll-cut corner brackets. Also, a center gable projects from the roof line with a round-arched 2/2 window. Three 2/2 windows pierce the second-story while two full-height 2/2 windows pierce the first-story. All the windows have square-edged surrounds and sills. The central entry is marked by a single-leaf wood door that is paneled with three-light paneled sidelights and a three-light transom. Three shed roof additions project from the rear elevation while a three-sided bay projects from the first story of the north elevation. Located down the hill to the north is a cluster of six outbuildings. Three of these date to circa 1875 with random rubble stone foundations and vertical board siding. Located to the east of these buildings are three circa 1940 outbuildings.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1386

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Alfred Foster House (preferred)

other Old Farm House

2. Location

street and number 17315 Masemore Road not for publication

city, town Parkton vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vernon R. Foster

street and number 1039 Mount Carmel Road telephone Not Available

city, town Parkton state MD zip code 21120-9700

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 7706 folio 752

city, town Towson tax map 21 tax parcel 100 tax ID number 0

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>8</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u> </u> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u> </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u> </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u>8</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1386

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This Queen Anne Style dwelling was constructed circa 1875 fronting west. The building stands two-and-a-half stories high with a two-story ell projecting to the east creating an L-shaped footprint. The cross gable roof has three interior-end brick chimneys with corbeled caps rising from the gable ends. The gable ends of the main block and the center bay each feature fishscale wood shingles. A random rubble stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad with wood German siding. The three-bay-wide façade features a shed roof three-bay wide porch on the first story with chamfered posts and scroll-cut corner brackets. Also, a center gable projects from the roof line with a round-arched 2/2 window. Three 2/2 windows pierce the second-story while two full-height 2/2 windows pierce the first-story. All the windows have square-edged surrounds and sills. The central entry is marked by a single-leaf wood door that is paneled with three-light paneled sidelights and a three-light transom. Three shed roof additions project from the rear elevation while a three-sided bay projects from the first story of the north elevation.

Located down the hill to the north is a cluster of six outbuildings. Three of these date to circa 1875 with random rubble stone foundations and vertical board siding. The barn stands two-and-a-half stories tall with a side gable metal standing seam roof and a square cupola. The one-and-a-half story wagon shed has a front gable roof with wood shingles. The two-story bank barn has a side gable metal standing seam roof with a square cupola.

Located to the east of these buildings are three circa 1940 outbuildings. The corncrib has a concrete pier foundation, slatted vertical board siding, and front gable roof. Next to it is a front gabled shed with wood frame construction and a metal standing seam roof. Also, a two-story wagon shed has a poured concrete foundation supporting a wood frame structure clad in vertical board. The front gable roof is clad in standing seam metal.

The non-contributing building mixed in with these historic outbuildings is a circa 1970 silo with addition. The silo stands about fifty feet high clad with corrugated metal shingles. The silo, with its standing seam metal cap, is attached to a shed roof addition with a concrete block foundation and pressed vertical board siding.

Located to the southeast of the main dwelling are two additional historic outbuildings. The first is a circa 1920 chicken house that has been remodeled circa 1980. Its random rubble stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad in beaded vertical board. The shed roof building stands one-and-a-half stories-high and six-bays-wide. The second outbuilding is a circa 1940 shed with a concrete pier foundation and vertical board siding. This shed roof structure stands one-story high.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1386

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1875 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1875 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Alfred Foster House was constructed circa 1875 near the Seventh District town of Hereford and is representative of the many frame farmhouses constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century. Founded in the mid-18th century, Hereford became a thriving town during the 19th century. Named by the prominent Merryman family, who had emigrated from Herefordshire in England, the village was located in the Seventh District, which was the largest and most populated region of the county in latter part of the 19th century. The area historically consisted of rolling hills, traversed by major transportation corridors. It was supported by the cultivation of wheat, corn, oats, fruit, dairy, and the breeding of cattle. According to the 1850 J. C. Sidney Map of Baltimore County, Hereford was home to a Baptist church, a tavern, and numerous residences. By 1877, the town had grown to include a post office, an Odd Fellows Lodge, jeweler, dentist, undertaker, butcher, barber, hotel, schoolhouse, a Methodist Church, and a newspaper.¹ In 1881, Hereford had 300 residents and was the center of a wealthy agricultural and grazing region.² The community retains its late 19th century character. Alfred Foster maintained ownership of the property through the early 20th century, and the dwelling and outbuildings remain in the Foster family.

¹ S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line*, ((np: C. E. Clemens and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p.21.

² J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 874.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1386

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 104 Acres
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Hereford Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1875, the Alfred Foster House has been associated with the 104 acres of land known as tax parcel 100 of map 21 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

BA-1586

17315 MASEMORE ROAD

PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

5663 II NW
(NEW FREEDOM)

BA-1844

17700 MASEMORE ROAD

PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY

353

42'30"

354

356

YORK, PA. 24 MI.

40' 357

YORI
PARI

PRETTYBOY
RESERVOIR

Prettyboy Dam
elevation 520

CHERRY CREEK

ROAD

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USGS Quad: **HEREFORD**
Scale: 1:24,000



Foster

GILLETTE

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

MOUNT

INTERCHANGE

CARMEL

Hereford

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BA-1386

17315 MASEMORE ROAD

PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

4/13/2001

MD-SHPD

NW CORNER

1 of 4



BA 1386

17315 MASEMORE ROAD

PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

SE CORNER

2 of 4



BA-1386

17315 MASEMORE ROAD

PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERLIES

4/2001

MD-STPD

OUTBUILDINGS

3 of 4



BA1386

17315 MASEMORE ROAD

PARKTON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERS

4/2001

OUTBUILDINGS

4 of 4

BA-1386

OLD FARM HOUSE - Before 1877 - 17315 Masemore Road, (east side), 0.45 mile north of Mount Carmel Road, Hereford vicinity. Frame and clapboard vernacular-style house; cross-gable filled with fish scale shingles; scroll-sawn brackets on full-width front porch. Painted white. Good condition. Shown as the Alfred Foster House in 1877 atlas.

A--OUTBUILDING - Just north of farmhouse

B--BARN--Two barns north of BA 1386A (with louvered ventilator cupolas.